

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 IO-14 OIC-04 OMB-01

AEC-11 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 081810Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1544

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 1139

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG MESSAGE ON DATA ON  
NATO'S GROUND FORCES TO THE NAC

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE ON DATA ON NATO'S  
GROUND FORCES THAT AHG APPROVED AT THEIR FEBRUARY 7  
MEETING AND THAT WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE NAC ON FEB 8.  
BEGIN TEXT.

1. DURING PREPARATION OF PLENARY STATEMENTS ON COMMON  
CEILING CONCEPT NEED AROSE FOR COMPARATIVE DATA ON  
NATO/WP GROUND FORCES. IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT INFOR-  
MATION AVAILABLE TO DELEGATIONS HERE ON NATIONAL GROUND  
FORCE MANPOWER FIGURES WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH  
NATO TOTAL GROUND FORCE MANPOWER FIGURE IN NGA OF

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777,000 AS APPROVED FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES. THIS

LATTER FIGURE WAS DISCLOSED TO THE WP DURING THE PLENARY PRESENTATION ON 20 NOV AND QUOTED AT THE NATO PRESS CONFERENCE ON 24 NOV.

2. WE CONSIDER THAT THE ALLIES HAVE AT THIS STAGE NO OPTION BUT TO ADHERE TO FIGURE OF 777,000 SINCE THE USE OF ANY HIGHER FIGURE EVEN IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CONTEXT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE RISE TO IMPUTATIONS THAT NATO HAD EITHER INCREASED ITS GROUND FORCES RECENTLY OR THAT NATO DATA WAS UNRELIABLE. HENCE, ALL AUTHORITIES SHOULD CONSIDER THE VITAL NEED TO AVOID A DISCLOSURE OF ANY DATA WHICH DOES NOT CONFORM TO NATO'S PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED FIGURES. IF IN DUE COURSE AGREEMENT IS REACHED THAT THE FIGURE SHOULD BE REVISED THEN IN VIEW OF THE TACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE DISCLOSURE OF ANY HIGHER FIGURE THE AD HOC GROUP REQUEST TO BE CONSULTED PREVIOUSLY.

3. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE AD HOC GROUP TO BE IN POSSESSION OF ALL THE FACTS CONCERNING ANY DEVIATION FROM THE 777,000 FIGURE FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO ASSESS THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST AND WHEN DEALING WITH THE PRESS AND OTHERS TO WHOM THE 777,000 FIGURE HAS BEEN RELEASED.

4. THEREFORE, AD HOC GROUP REQUESTS THE FIGURES FOR GROUND FORCE MANPOWER FOR EACH NATO COUNTRY, INCLUDING FRANCE, IN THE GERMANY AND NATIONAL FORCES IN BERLIN. PREFERABLY, TWO SETS OF DATA ARE NEEDED FOR THE GROUND FORCES OF EACH COUNTRY: 1) THE PEACETIME MANNING LEVEL FOR WHICH FUNDS HAVE BEEN AUTHORISED AND 2) THE ACTUAL MANNING LEVEL; WITH INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THE FIGURES UNDER 1) AND 2) HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED. FURTHER, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THESE DATA BE PROVIDED FOR 30 JUNE AND 31 DECEMBER FOR EACH YEAR BEGINNING WITH 31 DECEMBER 1972. END TEXT.HUMES

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